

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

AND THE SANITATION DISTRICTS OF
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE GUIDE

Your Guide to Household Hazardous waste

IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY



**WHAT IS
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE?**

DANGERS OF IMPROPER DISPOSAL

SAFE USE, STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

HHW COLLECTION EVENTS

HOW TO REDUCE HHW USE

ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS

**1-888-CLEAN-LA
www.888CleanLA.com**

**PROJECT
Pollution
PREVENTION**

phone numbers

Los Angeles County Environmental Hotline **1-888-CLEAN-LA**
(1-888-253-2652)
www.888CleanLA.com

Information on Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events, certified used motor oil recycling centers, recycling, composting and other County environmental programs. Residents can report illegal dumping into the storm drain system.

Los Angeles Department of Health Services **1-800-427-8700**
www.ladhs.org

Los Angeles County Fire Department **323-890-4089**
Health & Hazardous Materials Division **www.lacofd.org**

Information on waste management and regulatory compliance.

County Sanitation Districts **1-800-238-0172**
of Los Angeles County **www.lacsd.org**

Information on wastewater treatment and solid waste facilities, water reuse, industrial waste, and Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events.

Los Angeles City Residential and Small **1-800-98-TOXIC**
Business HHW Program **(1-800-988-6942)**

Information on upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events, certified used motor oil recycling centers and hazardous waste collection from qualifying small businesses.

City of Los Angeles Stormwater Hotline **1-800-974-9794**
www.lastormwater.org

Report abandoned waste, accidental spills, clogged catch basins, illegal dumping, and illicit discharges into the streets or storm drain system.

California Environmental Protection Agency **916-445-3846**
(CAL/EPA) **www.calepa.ca.gov**

Information on CAL/EPA and how to safeguard California's natural environment — air, water, and land.

California Integrated Waste **916-341-6000**
Management Board (CIWMB) **www.ciwmb.ca.gov**

Information on waste reduction programs, recycling centers, composting and grasscycling.

Earth's 911 **800-CLEAN-UP**
Information on environmental **(1-800-253-2687)**
programs nationwide. **www.1800cleanup.org**

Los Angeles Regional Drug & Poison **1-800-8-POISON**
Information Center **(1-800-876-4766)**
www.calpoison.org

24-hour emergency information on poison contact including swallowing, eye or skin irritation, inhalation, animal or insect bites, food or drug reactions, and pet exposure.

National Inhalant Prevention Coalition **1-800-269-4237**
(NIPC) **www.inhalants.org**

Information on toxic products that are used as inhalants.

National Office of Housing and Urban **1-800-HUDS-FHA**
Development (HUD) **1-800-483-7342**
www.hud.gov/consumer/hhhchild.cfm

Tips on making your home safe and healthy.

What is household hazardous waste?

Household hazardous waste is any product labeled: toxic, poison, corrosive, flammable, combustible or irritant that is to be disposed of.

A typical home can contain a vast array of household hazardous products used for cleaning, painting, beautifying, lubricating and disinfecting the house, yard, workshop and garage.

The chemical-based household products from a single home may seem insignificant; but, when millions of homes across Los Angeles County use similar products — handling, storing and disposing of them improperly — the combined effect becomes a major problem. The health and safety of people and animals, as well as the health of our communities and the environment is endangered when these types of products are discarded in household garbage, sinks or storm drains.

The health and safety of our families, neighborhoods and environment is threatened when household hazardous waste is stored or disposed of improperly.



The following are examples of household hazardous products that may be found in and around your home:

Lawn/Garden-Care Products

- Bug spray
- Fertilizer
- Pesticide/insecticide
- Fungicide
- Herbicide
- Weed killer



Paint and Paint-Related Products

- Latex/water-based paint
- Oil-based paint
- Turpentine paint stripper
- Rust remover
- Paint thinner
- Varnish



Automotive Fluids and Batteries

- Used motor oil and filters
- Gasoline and diesel fuel
- Kerosene
- Auto body repair products
- Windshield washer solution
- Antifreeze
- Brake and transmission fluid
- Lead acid batteries
- Metal polish with solvent



Beauty Products and Medicines

- Alcohol-based lotions
- Isopropyl alcohol
- Medicine
- Nail polish and nail polish remover
- Hair relaxers, dyes and permanents
- Products in aerosol cans



Household Cleaners

- Ammonia-based cleaners
- Oven and drain cleaners
- Floor care products
- Aerosol cleaners
- Window cleaners
- Furniture polish
- Metal polishes and cleaners
- Tub, tile and toilet bowl cleaners



Miscellaneous

- Fluorescent lights
- Mercury thermometers
- Photographic chemicals
- Lighter fluid
- Shoe polish
- Fiberglass epoxy
- Swimming pool chemicals
- Moth balls
- Glue
- Mercury batteries



For more information about the date and location of Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events and certified used motor oil recycling centers, please contact:

1-888-CLEAN-LA
www.888CleanLA.com



County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
and the Sanitation Districts of
Los Angeles County

Dangers of improper disposal

When used, stored and disposed of according to label directions, most household products like cleaners, beauty products, medicines, auto fluids, paint and lawn care products pose little hazard to people or to the environment.

Improper disposal of HHW includes throwing it in the trash, pouring it on the ground, flushing down the toilet, sink or drain, or pouring it in the gutter or storm drain.

However, these products may become dangerous and hazardous when used, stored or disposed of carelessly.

When thrown in with the regular trash, household hazardous waste can injure sanitation workers. In addition, the hazardous waste will end up in landfills not intended or permitted for those type of wastes which could in turn impact groundwater.

When poured on the ground, household hazardous waste may seep into and contaminate our groundwater and/or the ocean we swim in.

When flushed down a toilet, sink or drain, household hazardous waste goes through the sewage system to treatment plants not equipped to handle hazardous waste. At treatment plants, hazardous waste interferes with the biological treatment process by killing bacteria and contaminating the effluent that runs into the ocean and the biosolids which cannot then be reused as fertilizer.

When hazardous waste is thrown on the street, it goes down storm drains leading into our area waterways, impacting the Pacific Ocean, our lakes, and our local beaches.

Improper use, storage and disposal of household hazardous products can potentially harm our families, children, and pets, pollute our neighborhoods and contaminate our ground, water and air.

The illegal dumping of hazardous waste carries a minimum fine of \$5,000 per day per violation up to \$100,000 per day per violation and imprisonment.

Section 25189.5,
Health & Safety Code.

Poisoning Prevention Tips:

- Keep all hazardous products in their original containers and out-of-reach of children. Medicines should have child-resistant caps.
- Install child safety latches on all drawers or cabinets containing harmful products.
- Store harmful products away from food.
- Keep original labels on all containers, read and follow directions carefully.
- Keep syrup of ipecac on hand and have the Poison Control Center number on the telephone.

To report illegal dumping, call 1-888-CLEAN-LA.

For more information about the date and location of Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events and certified used motor oil recycling centers, please contact:

1-888-CLEAN-LA
www.888CleanLA.com

P R O J E C T
Pollution
P R E V E N T I O N

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
and the Sanitation Districts of
Los Angeles County

Safe use, storage, and disposal practices

Many of the products found in our homes are toxic. They can cause serious human and animal health and environmental problems if used, stored and disposed of improperly. The simple practices listed below can help keep your family, home, neighborhood and environment safe.

Do's

- Think carefully before buying a product. Do you really need it? Do you already have something similar?
- Buy just enough to do the job.
- Look for a non-hazardous or less hazardous substitute.
- Read the label and follow use, storage and disposal directions carefully. Watch for signal words such as *caution*, *warning*, *poison* or *danger*. If directions are unclear, contact the manufacturer or dealer before using.
- Keep all chemical products and waste out of reach of children and animals.
- Keep leftover products in original labeled containers so that you can refer to directions for use and proper disposal.
- Share unused products with others if each product is in its original container with a label.
- Dispose of household hazardous waste properly by taking it to a Collection Event scheduled near you.
- Locate auto repair shops and gas stations that recycle used motor oil, antifreeze and batteries.
- Completely finish products in containers before disposal. Clean, empty containers can be put in the trash. (Note: Some cities will even recycle empty paint cans and aerosol containers.)
- Triple rinse all containers of water-soluble materials. Use rinse water according to label directions.

do's

Dispose of household hazardous waste properly by taking it to a Collection Event scheduled near you. Call 1-888-CLEAN-LA for more information.

don'ts

Don'ts

- Do not dump leftover products into the street, storm drains or ground. It is illegal.
- Do not burn used or leftover products or product containers. Burning may produce toxic fumes and contribute to air pollution.
- Do not bury leftover products or containers in your yard or garden.
- Do not reuse pesticide or other chemical containers for other purposes.
- Do not mix chemical products or wastes.
- Do not put any household hazardous waste in the trash or sink.
- Do not repackage chemical products in containers that are normally used for food products or soft drinks. Children have died from drinking chemicals stored in soft drink and juice bottles.
- Do not store corrosives, flammables and poisons together. Separate these containers.
- Never mix household hazardous materials. Dangerous reactions can occur.
- Do not smoke, eat or drink when handling household hazardous products.

The illegal dumping of hazardous waste carries a minimum fine of \$5,000 per day per violation up to \$100,000 per day per violation and imprisonment.

Section 25189.5,
Health & Safety Code.

To report illegal dumping, call 1-888-CLEAN-LA.

For a list of alternative products or for more information about the date and location of Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events and certified used motor oil recycling centers, please contact:

1-888-CLEAN-LA
www.888CleanLA.com

P R O J E C T
Pollution
P R E V E N T I O N

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
and the Sanitation Districts of
Los Angeles County

Events for collecting household hazardous waste

A Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event, operated by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, is a one-day, drive-through event where residents are invited to a specific location to drop off their household hazardous waste.

Collection events are scheduled in different areas throughout the County. They are free, open to the public and are usually held on a Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. No appointment is needed.

FREE HHW Collection Events are held WEEKLY in Los Angeles County.

The City of Los Angeles operates collection events which service over 20 different areas each year within the City of Los Angeles. All residents in the County are invited to dispose of their household hazardous waste at these events. They are free and usually operated Friday through Saturday (occasionally Thursday through Saturday) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Additionally, certain cities have set up their own collection events for city residents. Call your city for more information, or our hotline at 1-888-CLEAN-LA for the location and date of any of the collection events near you or look up the schedule on the Internet at www.888CleanLA.com.

What Happens to Household Hazardous Waste Collected by the County?

Most of the paint is reused for the County's anti-graffiti program. Motor oil is recycled/ reused

as lubricants, marine diesel fuel, supplemental fuel and tar by-products such as asphalt cover and re-refined motor oil. Miscellaneous solvents are reused as supplemental fuel in the manufacture of cement.

Household hazardous waste that cannot be recycled or reused is carefully packed into special drums for disposal.

Preparing Household Hazardous Waste for a Collection Event

- Pack household hazardous waste in a cardboard box so that it does not spill during transport. Be prepared to leave your containers.
- Put like chemicals together. Separate unlike chemicals.
- Label materials that are not in their original containers.
- Make sure containers are not leaking and lids are tightly sealed.
- Put your box of household hazardous waste in the trunk of your car, away from passengers during transport.
- At the collection site, trained personnel will ask you to remain in your car while they remove the household hazardous waste from your trunk.

Certified Used Oil Collection Centers

Many private businesses like gas stations, auto parts stores and auto repair shops participate in used motor oil recycling programs. In Los Angeles County there are more than 650 such locations.

County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events will NOT accept:

- **Radioactive waste**
- **Ammunition**
- **Explosives**
- **Infectious/medical waste**
- **Compressed gas cylinders**
- **Business/commercial waste**

For more information about the date and location of Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events and certified used motor oil recycling centers, please contact:

1-888-CLEAN-LA
www.888CleanLA.com

P R O J E C T
Pollution
P R E V E N T I O N

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
and the Sanitation Districts of
Los Angeles County

How to reduce HHW

One way to reduce the generation of **household hazardous waste** and prevent potential pollution is to find nonhazardous or less hazardous alternative products. This will help protect the health of your family, neighbors and the environment.

What You Can Do to Reduce Household Hazardous Waste

As you make your choices about the use of hazardous and nonhazardous products, remember that the decisions you make affect the way manufacturers design products.

- Use products containing hazardous materials and fertilizers sparingly or use a nonhazardous alternative.
- Before purchasing a product, read the label carefully to make sure it will do what you want it to do. Once you buy something you are also legally responsible for disposing of it properly.
- Buy just what you need to do the job. Use it up. Give leftovers to a friend, neighbor, business or charity that can use them up. Excess pesticide might be offered to a greenhouse or garden center.
- Select water-based products over solvent-based products when available (e.g., paint, glue, shoe polish).
- Avoid aerosol sprays. Choose the pump spray or other alternatives.
- Be smart when you apply pesticides or fertilizers. Do not apply

The most common household products involved in poisonings are: prescription and non-prescription drugs, cleaning agents, plants and cosmetics.

before a rain. Not only will you lose most of the pesticides or fertilizer through runoff, but you also will be harming the environment. Do not overwater after application. Read the label. Do not apply more than is recommended.

- Have a professional change your motor oil. For a few dollars more,

you not only save yourself time and energy, but it's more likely that the used motor oil collected is recycled.

- Dispose of household hazardous waste according to the directions on the container, or at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event, a used motor oil recycling center, auto parts store or service station. Call 1-888-CLEAN-LA or check the Internet at www.888CleanLA.com for the location of an event or facility near you.
- Ask for re-refined motor oil for your vehicle. Re-refined oil is oil that has been recycled and then reprocessed so it is as good or better than virgin oil. By using re-refined motor oil, you are closing the loop and saving natural resources.

Consumer Choices

We can easily reduce the amount and toxicity of waste in and around our homes, and at the same time save money.

- Careful planning can help avoid the need for many potentially toxic products; and
- Careful shopping will allow us to find products that can be recycled, reused or be disposed of safely.

Many sources of household hazardous waste can be replaced with other products that are safer, cheaper and equally effective.

Careful planning and shopping lend themselves to source reduction – meaning reducing the amount of hazardous materials entering the household as well as reducing the toxicity of the waste generated. We can do this by shopping thoughtfully, reading labels and looking for non-hazardous or less hazardous products.

For information on alternative products or more information about the date and location of Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events and certified used motor oil recycling centers, please contact:

1-888-CLEAN-LA
www.888CleanLA.com

P R O J E C T
Pollution
P R E V E N T I O N

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
and the Sanitation Districts of
Los Angeles County

What are alternative products?

Alternative Cleaning Products

Try these easy alternatives to minimize household hazardous products. Most of these products are very common and are found in most household cabinets:

Kitchen

Spray Disinfectant Cleaner

½ cup borax
1 gallon hot water
Dissolve borax in hot water.
Wipe down areas to be disinfected.

Abrasive Cleaner for Counter Tops

Sprinkle baking soda or borax, add juice of ½ lemon and scrub.

Drain Cleaner/Opener

¼ cup vinegar
¼ cup baking soda
Mix ingredients and pour mixture down drain. Let stand for a few minutes and rinse with boiling water.

Oven Cleaner

Mix equal parts of castille soap, borax and water. Let mixture set for 20 minutes and scrub with mixture of baking soda and salt

Window Wash

Juice from one fresh lemon
2 cups water or club soda
1 teaspoon cornstarch
Mix all ingredients and pour into plastic spray bottle. Shake well.

Bathroom

Bathtub/Sink Stains

Scrub with paste made from cream of tartar and hydrogen peroxide.

Soap Film on Fiberglass Surface

Apply baking soda with damp cloth, rub and rinse off residue well.

Soap Film/Mildew on Shower Curtains

Pour full-strength vinegar on the shower curtain to remove soap film and mildew.

Shower-Door Track Cleaning

Pour full-strength vinegar into the track, let soak for a few minutes, rinse.

Toilet Lime Deposit Removal

Pour full strength white vinegar in the bowl, let sit for several hours. Scrub with sturdy brush.

Other recipes

Spot Remover

Club Soda

Pour on fresh spots and stains to remove wine and foods from clothing, carpets and liners.

Water Spot Furniture Polish

Toothpaste (not gel)

Baking Soda

Pecan

Apply equal parts of toothpaste and baking soda with soft, damp cloth. Rinse out the cloth and wipe off any residue. When the finish is smooth, buff with a clean soft cloth. Restore color and shine by rubbing the spot with the meat of a half pecan, then buff.

Dark Wood Furniture Polish

1 tsp. lemon oil

Juice of one lemon

1 tsp. brandy or whisky

1 tsp. water

Mix and apply with soft cloth. Must be made fresh each time.

Unscented Wood Polish

3 parts olive oil

1 part vinegar

Mix and apply with soft cloth.

Pet Stains

Soak stained area in warm soapy water. Sponge with equal parts of water and white vinegar. Blot dry.

Pest Repellent

Dog House Flea Repellent

Wash dog house with salt water. Scatter fresh pine needles or cedar shavings under your pet's sleeping pad. Keep bedding clean.

Insecticide

Mix dishwashing liquid and water and spray on infected area.

Ant Repellant

Option 1:

Sprinkle cucumber peelings near ant infestations.

Option 2:

Sprinkle red chili powder, cream of tartar powder, salt or sage near ant infestations.

Visit www.888CleanLA.com for more alternative product recipes.

For information about how to dispose of household hazardous waste please contact:

1-888-CLEAN-LA
www.888CleanLA.com

P R O J E C T
Pollution
P R E V E N T I O N

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
and the Sanitation Districts of
Los Angeles County

Upon 72 hours notice, the Department can provide program information and publications in alternate formats or make other accommodations for people with disabilities. To request accommodations ONLY, or for more ADA information, please contact our departmental ADA Coordinator at (626) 458-4081 or TDD (626) 282-7829, Monday through Thursday, from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.